

Issue 33

Town Information:

**Municipal Campus:**  
476 Maple Street  
Big Flats

**Town Hall:**  
Monday-Friday  
8am to 4pm  
562-8443

**Community  
Center:**  
Monday-Friday  
8am to 9pm

**Office:**  
Monday-Friday  
8am to 4pm  
562-8443, ext.303

**Town Court:**  
Monday- Friday  
8:30am-3:30pm  
562-8443, ext. 233

**Big Flats Town Board:**

- Supervisor Edward Fairbrother
- Council Lee Giammichele
- Council Andy Gillette
- Council Bob Adams
- Council Mike Saglibene
- Town Clerk Linda Cross
- Meetings:
  - 2nd Wednesday at 4:30pm
  - 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm

# The New Big Flats Times



## *What's Going on in the Town?*

- Remember to fill out the survey form on the back and mail it in or drop it off to Tammy in the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall
- Please consider sponsoring the Big Flats Times- look at the sponsor form for pricing on page14
- Email [tstein@bigflatsny.gov](mailto:tstein@bigflatsny.gov) with any events you have planned in the town of Big Flats that are open to the public
- The Big Flats Times is intended to keep the Big Flats residents informed of up coming events, a little history, what's new, and general information about the town. We would be happy to extend the newsletter to non Big Flats residents for \$10.00 a year. Please contact Tammy for information. (607)562-8443 ext. 202

How many snowmen can you find?



## **BIG FLATS COMMUNITY DAYS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!**

The Committee is grateful to all that have volunteered in the past. Community Days has been a part of Big Flats for over 60 years. The committee has worked hard to raise funds to help improve the town and its parks.

We need some help!

We are looking for 3-5 new committee members to volunteer their time to help with activities, including Community Days. The volunteers will be expected to attend monthly meetings that are 1- 2 hours long to help organize events, along with helping at the three day carnival (Big Flats Community days) that is scheduled in June.

If you are interested in volunteering to become a committee member or have any questions please contact Mark Gould at 562-7066



## A Short History of the Big Flats Women's Club

In 1957, 13 women came together at the home of Bess Oakley to unite the women of the community for civic purposes and for the improvement of the Big Flats Community, forming the Big Flats Women's Club. Along the way these ladies supported efforts to improve the town zoning laws, the parks and traffic and most importantly in 1968 its major project of helping to establish the Big Flats Branch Library. Over the years the group has continued to meet and organize fundraising projects for the benefit of the entire Big Flats Community. The group's mission statement to *help build friendships and lend a helping hand when needed in our Community*, hopes to encourage more involvement from civic minded people in the area. Our charitable causes over the past years have included donations to not only the library, but also the Food Pantry, the SPCA, the Friends of the Chemung Watershed, Sponsorship of a Queen candidate during Community Days, flowers at the library, and maintaining the display case at the library. Most recently the Women's Club reestablished a yearly college scholarship for a graduating senior girl from the Big Flats area. Meetings are now held 4 times a year at the Community Center in September, December, March and June. Our yearly dues are \$15. All ladies who work or live in the Big Flats area are welcome to join us. The group is always looking for more charitable projects so please feel free to bring any ideas to the club's attention.

For more information on the Women's Club please contact current President,

Bobbie Vence at 562-3465 or email [bigflatswomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:bigflatswomensclub@gmail.com).

Mailing address is Big Flats Women's Club, PO Box 326, Big Flats, NY 14814.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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Bo Family

Pamela Farr



## From the Community Center



### Private Parties Welcome.

Having a birthday party, hosting a baby shower, or planning a holiday gathering? The Community Center is ready and available to meet your needs. Call the Center office for more details.

(607) 562-8443 ext 303 / [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov)

### Activities

There are many activities to participate in and events to attend. Would you be interested in playing cards, are you crafty or want to learn to be, looking for exercise programs to join, or learn to cook Italian style? Want to socialize and have a meal? Do your kids like to play games? Well the Big Flats Community Center has it all! Check out the monthly activity flyer on the website for details. Looking for a new program and have ideas to share? The Center staff will be happy to help you set up a new activity to share with residents!

## Holiday FOOD DRIVE

Donations to benefit the

Big Flats Food Pantry

Non-perishable food and personal toiletry items accepted.

**"Building a better COMMUNITY**

**by fighting HUNGER today."**

**Please consider donating !**



## Christmas Concert

The Band ANASTAZJA

Friday, December 4th

6:00 pm



Big Flats Community Center



**Tickets: \$5 /person or \$20/Family Pack**

**Cookies, Popcorn, Hot Cocoa, Coffee Provided**

### Upcoming Events

~ The Big Flats Lions club sponsors a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross approximately every 56 days. Please consider becoming a donor. Call the office for a list of upcoming dates.

~ AARP Driver safety classes offered at the Community Center. Most insurance companies will give a discount on the cost of your policy. Contact your agent for specific details and the monthly flyer for scheduled dates.

~ Annual FOOD DRIVE to benefit the Big Flats Food Pantry. Donations of canned foods and toiletries accepted in the foyer through the end of December.

~ Christmas Concert:  
Friday, December 4, 2015 6:00pm  
The Band Anastazja

### Donations

Donations are always welcomed! Check with your employer for details on donating through the United Way campaign. Remember to specify your donation be sent to the Town of Big Flats Community Center.





# Thank You to all of Our Business Sponsors, Cont.. on page 7

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607-562-3366

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**84 Main St.  
Big Flats, NY  
(607)562-2023**

Request A Service Call

**Cottage Gift Shop**

2445 State Route 352  
Elmira, NY 14903  
(607) 733-9063  
Mon - Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
[www.Cottage-Gift-Shop.com](http://www.Cottage-Gift-Shop.com)

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Big Flats, NY 14814  
607.562.3921

**Ken's Service Center**

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[NRIHandyman@newcomerremodeling.com](mailto:NRIHandyman@newcomerremodeling.com)  
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Elmira, NY 14904  
(607)734-2165

**WILLOW CREEK**

3069 New York 352 Big Flats, NY 14814  
(607)562-8898  
[badams@willowcreekgolfclub.com](mailto:badams@willowcreekgolfclub.com)  
[www.willowcreekgolfclub.com](http://www.willowcreekgolfclub.com)

Relive the past . . .

**Antique Revival**  
26 Palmer Road North  
Big Flats, New York 14814  
800.780.7330  
607.562.2202 fax 607.562.2205  
[www.antiquevival.com](http://www.antiquevival.com)

**Antique Revival**

Tuesday-Saturday: 10-5 Sunday: 12-4 Closed Monday

**Blitz Pharmacy**

485 Maple St. Big Flats, NY 14814  
607-358-4200

Mon - Fri 8:30am - 6:00pm

Medication Synchronization Program  
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Free Delivery Available

[Blitzpharmacy.com](http://Blitzpharmacy.com)

**Stan's NOTUBES**

Hours  
Mon-Fri  
8am-5pm

202 Daniel Zenker Dr. Big Flats, NY 14814  
Phone: 607-562-2877

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**Big Flats American Legion POST 1612**

(607)562-3491

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ccPartyCenter.com



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Local Sales Representative  
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pkelly@etcnpt.com  
Business & Residential

## Property Tax Information

For your convenience you can now see your Tax information on the Town's website at [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov)

On the front page under Quick Links click Town and County Tax Bills. You can search by using last name, property address, or tax map number for the years 2008 - present.

**Contact your Tax Collector's Office if you do not receive your Tax bill by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January at (607)562-8443 ext. 203**



## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Troop 87

Boy Scout Troop 87 is celebrating 50 years this year. Founded in 1965 by Rev. Marcy Punnett, Troop 87 has been chartered by First Presbyterian Church for the last 50 years. Hopefully there will be many more. There have been 48 boy scouts that have come out of Troop 87 with their Eagle Scout Rank. Our most recent Eagle Scout was Marc Andrien. Today, Troop 87 is a boy run troop with parental guidance. Our Scout master is Mr. Bob Byland who cherishes every minute he spends with these boys along with 2 assistant scoutmasters. There are 18 boys this year with a very busy agenda and they are very excited and ready to get the year started.

The troop does a lot of fundraising each year. These fundraisers help to pay for summer camp at Camp Gorton and helps the boys offset costs of going on a lot of the trips and other necessities the troop needs throughout the year. Right now our fundraising campaign is the Boy Scout Popcorn. Our boys go door to door and also do show and sell around the community. When you buy the popcorn 73% goes back to local scouting. Closer to Christmas we will be doing a wreath fundraiser. We also have a bottle and can fundraiser that goes on all year long. We have a tan bin next to the clothing drop off at First Presbyterian Church; it is well marked for Troop 87. The boys are glad to take any bottles and cans off of your hands. This fundraiser has been a big success. Just drop them in the bin at the church and we will take care of them from there. If you are out at any of the parks in Big Flats, walking or for a soccer game we have small grey and green bins that you can throw water or soda bottles /cans in. The boys collect them on a regular basis. In the next few months there will be a recycle bin for Troop 87 at Harnas Read - Mart on Sing Sing Road. We are also having a Flapjack fundraiser that everyone is invited to at Applebee's in Painted Post on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 8am to 10am. The address for Applebee's is 3149 Silverback Lane Painted Post NY 14870. We hope to see you there! We will be having a Rock and Bowl also at Rossi Lanes January 22, 2016 from 9pm- 11pm. Please watch for these events on the calendar in the Big Flats Times.

The boys do a lot of community service also. Scouting for food is in November, where the boys leave bags on the doors in the neighborhood one week. The next week they come back around and pick up the nonperishable food and take it back to the church to be sorted for the food pantry. This year we also helped the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats with their spring clean up and also helped to set up for their rummage sale. Community Days is also another way the boys do community service helping to hand out water at the race and also volunteer their time at the food stands.

If anyone has a son /grandson/nephew who is interested in scouting or just wants more information on scouting please feel free to contact our Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 87 Mike Carlson 738-1028.

Yours in Scouting,





## From the Code Department

The town continues to utilize it's carefully structured comprehensive plan in a way which:

Preserves and enhances it's existing rural character while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Encourages future development that is of quality design that will foster the character of the Town, and meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Encourages future development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Both residential and commercial development continue to remain steady, which is a good indication that the local

economy remains reasonably healthy. An important part of this development involves protecting its citizens as well as existing and future developed properties from flooding. The Town of Big Flats participates in a program (CRS) which allows the community to receive reduced flood insurance rates. This program requires the town to regulate all floodplain development and provide educational resources for the community. The town of Big Flats website [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov) provides links and information for residents. Also, as an annual outreach requirement, please review the flooding information.



In an effort to assure that residents of the Town of Big Flats are able to purchase Flood Insurance at a reasonable rate, this office offers Floodplain information to Town residents, legal firms, financial institutions and real estate agencies.

The services provided include :

- Flood map determination
- Flood Insurance rate maps and Geographic Information System mapping
- Flood Insurance information
- Repairing flood damaged buildings
- Retrofitting of flood prone structures
- Floodplain development permit process
- Elevation Certificates

We have the latest Flood Insurance, floodplain development and flood proofing information available at the Town Hall and at the Big Flats Branch of the Steele Memorial Library. The Town of Big Flats also maintains a Flood Warning system, through the Environmental Emergency Management Services.

If you require any of these services or have any questions in regard to Floodplain Development or Flood Insurance, please do not hesitate to contact this office (607)562-8443 ext. 205

*Congratulations to Bob Adams and Mike Saglibene for being elected to another 4 year term on the Town Board*



*Congratulations to Lisa Hess for being elected to serve as Town Justice for another 4 year term*



**Flood Warnings:** Depending on the location and storm characteristics, the warning time for a flood can range from no warning for flash flooding or small streams, to several hours for riverine flooding. There may be additional warning time for flooding of the Finger Lakes.

April 1993: A March blizzard dumped 2.5+ feet of snow across the So. Tier and most of the NE. The thaw shortly after caused extensive flooding, some high levels lasting more than one week. 675 homes and 40 businesses in Schuler County were damaged.

July 1935: A severe storm developed quickly, affecting 10 counties in So. Tier and Cent. NY. More than 40 deaths were recorded, refugee camps were everywhere.

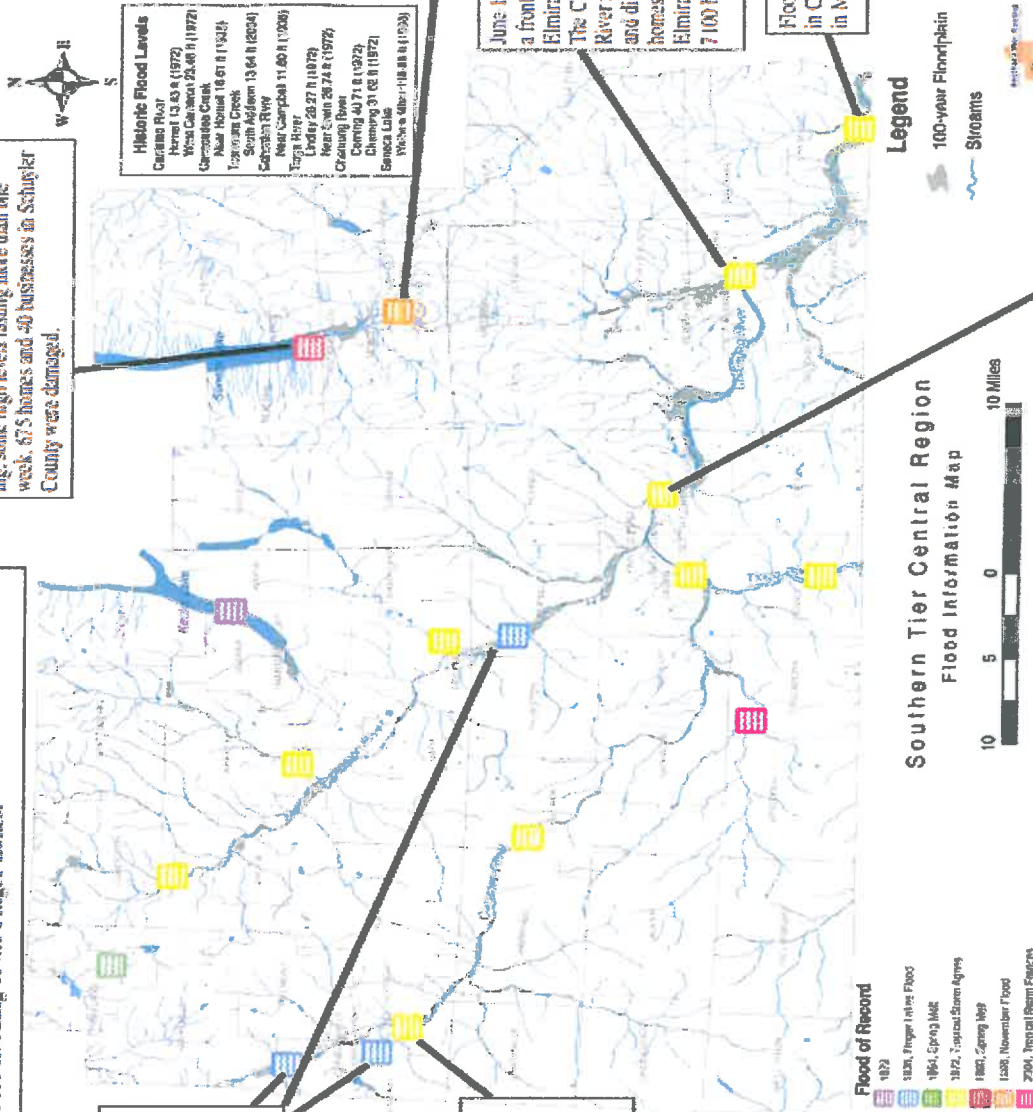
June 1972: Agnes dropped about 11" of rain in Hornell. Flood waters damaged homes and businesses, displacing families for weeks and even months.

November 1996: Heavy rain associated with a late fall storm caused high water across the So. Tier. Many urban problems were caused by autumn leaves clogging ditches and storm sewers.

June 1972: Trop. Storm Agnes combined with a frontal system stalling over the So. Tier. Elmira received about 8" of rain in four days. The City was split in half when the Chemung River rose so high it overtopped flood walls and dikes, washed out bridges, and swept homes and vehicles down river. In all, 15,000 Elmira residents were driven from their homes and 7,100 homes were affected by flood waters.

Flood waters from Agnes registered 7" higher in Chemung than in the former flood of record in May 1946.

June 1972: About 10" of rain fell in the Corning - Painted Post area during Trop. Storm Agnes. 23 lives were lost due to the flood waters that ripped through the area causing buildings to collapse under the strain of the heavy flow. Painted Post had 30" of water.



## Flash Flooding Safety Tips

If you live near a stream, in a low lying area, or even in an urban area, you could be affected by flash flooding. During heavy rain, stream levels can rise rapidly and overflow banks, roadside ditches can overflow, low lying areas can quickly fill up, and storm water sewers can back up because there is just too much water for drains to handle. In winter, the threat of flooding is not gone. A winter warm up with even a moderate rain event can cause rapid snow melt resulting in flooding. Ice jams can quickly back up water in streams and rivers causing flooding.

- Never walk or drive through standing or running water. Even six inches of water can knock a person off their feet. Just two feet of water can float a car. Drowning is the number one cause of death in floods.

- Do not drive around barricades. Remember roads, culverts and bridges can be undercut making them unsafe for travel.

- Stay away from downed power lines. Electrocution is the second most common reason for death in a flood. Electricity travels readily through water.

- Have the local utility turn off gas and electricity to your home. Don't have service restored until all appliances and systems have been inspected and cleaned by a

qualified person.

- Remember that some appliances, such as televisions, can hold a charge even after being unplugged.

Be alert for gas leaks. Don't smoke, use candles or lanterns, and do not light an open flame unless you're certain natural gas is not present.

- Be aware of carbon monoxide hazards, an odorless, colorless gas that can cause asphyxiation. Carbon monoxide is formed when fossil fuels are burned, including kerosene, propane and charcoal. Do not use gas or charcoal grills indoors for heating or cooking, and crack windows when using alternative heating sources to allow fresh air into your home and carbon monoxide to escape.

- Be ready to evacuate when told to do so. Pack medications, baby supplies, food and water, and any other needed specialty items to take with you.

- Remember that unless otherwise specified, shelters do not allow pets to be brought inside. Make arrangements for the care of pets in advance of an emergency.

- Follow the designated emergency routes during an evacuation. Other routes may be for emergency traffic only, or could be congested, flooded or damaged.

## FLOODING AND EMERGENCIES...

If you live in or near a 100 Year Floodplain, you have a 25% chance of being flooded once every 30 years.

Flooding from small streams, roadside ditches, ponds, and lakes have caused widespread damage to homes and properties in our tri-county area.

In the last 150 years, rivers and streams have inundated various communities from Hornell to Wellsburg on an average

of once every 4 1/2 years. Find out your flood hazard by looking at Flood Maps (FIRMs) at local government

offices. Call your jurisdiction to find out where.

ALL development in a floodplain, not just building construction, requires local permits.

It is a violation to dump debris, including yard wastes, into a creek, stream or river and it should always be reported

to your municipality.

A building in the floodplain that sustains substantial damage or is substantially improved must be brought into compliance with current standards.

The floodplain provides a green space for protection of streams from development and the forces of erosion.



Never ride bicycles, ATVs or motorcycles on flood control dikes as the grass that is ruined actually helps to hold the dike together in high water events.

Area wetlands can help improve water quality by filtering out impurities and nutrients from runoff.

Homeowner Insurance policies do not cover damage to your home from flooding.

Residents in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler Counties can obtain Flood Insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) cover flood damages to your home and its contents.

Without Flood Insurance, many residents have lost their homes and belongings due to flooding, and have never recovered financially.

Insurance through NFIP can also be purchased by renters to insure their personal belongings.

There's a 30 day waiting period for coverage to begin. Find out about NFIP today, don't wait until the next flood to find out your home is not covered.

Many municipalities in our tri-county area participate in the Community Rating System which can lower the price of flood insurance for the residents, making it even more affordable!

Our Local EAS Radio and TV Stations are:

WENY-FM, WKPQ-FM,  
WNKI-FM, WFLR-AM/FM,  
WENY-TV, WETM-TV

The code and planning offices would like to wish all residents a safe and prosperous 2016! Enjoy the Holidays!



Residents of Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler Counties are fortunate to have the Flood Warning Service (FWS) working for them. Environmental Emergency Services, Inc. (EES) is a non-profit organization, funded by the three Counties and the municipalities of the tri-county area. FWS is one of the funded projects of EES. Storm information gathered by precipitation and river gauges, the National Weather Service, and local observers are plotted on maps and entered into computer programs by volunteers of the FWS. Flooding predictions and forecasts are then relayed to the Emergency Management Offices for the three counties. Emergency Management officials are then able to give warnings through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), evacuate residents if necessary, and take precautionary steps to save lives and limit property damage. Vehicles with PA systems may also be used to alert neighborhoods of an emergency. As a resident in or near a flood hazard area, it is important for you to heed all warnings, follow the directions given in emergency messages, and make sure you have a battery powered radio or NOAA Weather Radio to receive warnings as they

are issued. NOAA Weather Radios can be purchased in a wide variety of local electronics stores, home improvement centers, and department stores. It's one of the best investments you can make in your family's safety!

For more media information and to volunteer with FWS, please check out our website at **[www.highwater.org](http://www.highwater.org)** You can help to protect your home from flood damage several ways:

Raise your appliances and utilities above the flood level. Standpipes and pumps can also be installed to help prevent water from damaging your home. You can raise your entire house above the flood level.

- If flooding is not deep, you may be able to improve drainage to keep water away from your home.
- Install a water-tight seal to keep floodwater out of your well.
- Waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method should be used on homes with basements or if water will not get over two feet deep.
- Emergency measures include sandbagging and moving furniture before water enters your home. Remember that sewers and drainage structures can also back up and be a cause of flooding.

### **Your local government offices can help with these and other retrofitting ideas, please call!**

For more information on emergency planning, and local hazards, visit the following websites:

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
[www.highwater.org](http://www.highwater.org)  
[www.chemungcounty.com](http://www.chemungcounty.com)  
[floodsmart.org](http://floodsmart.org)  
[www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
[www.steubencony.org](http://www.steubencony.org)

### **Report all illegal flood plain development or dumping to your local code enforcement officer or municipal government office.**

Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation:  
607-739-2009  
 Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation:  
607-535-9650  
 Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation:  
607-776-7398

### **Phone Numbers:**

Chemung County  
Emergency Management:  
607-737-2096  
 Chemung County Planning  
Dept. 607-737-5510  
 Schuyler County  
Emergency Management:  
607-535-8200  
 Schuyler County Planning  
Dept. 607-535-7162  
 Steuben County Emergency  
Management: 607-664-2700  
 Steuben County Planning  
Dept. 607-664-2268  
 DEC Flood Control,  
Horseheads: 607-739-0809



## **girl scouts**

The Big Flats Girl Scout Junior Troop #41426 will be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BLANKET DRIVE and we're asking for your help!

We will be collecting used blankets, pillowcases and/or towels for the animals at the Chemung County SPCA.

When: Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016  
from 11-3pm

Where: The SPCA (on Route 352)





## FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - By Sylvia M. Radford

**MUSEUM LOCATION - 258 HIBBARD ROAD, BIG FLATS-** We are open each Tuesday from 9am until noon.

Thanks to all of you who supported our pancake breakfast this past summer. Our new book *The Making of a Town, Big Flats NY* is printed. Over 200 pages of articles and pictures. Pick one up at the museum for only \$18.00. We have also developed a new website at [bigflatsnyhistory.weebly.com](http://bigflatsnyhistory.weebly.com), take a look and tell us what you think. You can email us on the contact page.

### LOWE FARM - LOWE ROAD

❖ Cornelius Lowe was one of the early settlers in Big Flats. He had kept a store in Newtown (Elmira) and then came to Big Flats in 1794-95. He purchased about 300 acres of land near the present Lowe Road, for which he paid \$1.25 an acre. He carried on an enterprising trade in skins and furs. These he took to Seneca Lake, then by boat to the portages on the Seneca River, Then on to Salina near Syracuse. He returned, loaded with salt to the head of the lake where he stored it until there was snow so he could bring it to Big Flats by sleigh. He brought his family to live on the farm in a modest dwelling which he first built on the farm home site. In the early 1800s the large Lowe Farm was constructed by the family. He is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery (1773-1853). His wife, Phoebe, is buried in the Marsh Cemetery on Wygant Road (1771-1814)



- ❖ Joseph Lowe, son of Cornelius took over the management of the farm from his father. In 1827 a Baptist Meeting House was built on the Lowe property.
- ❖ In 1830, the Chemung Feeder Canal was built through the farm; the dike on one side of the pond was the towpath for the canal. Lowe Pond was dug and incorporated into the canal. Canal boats would wait in the pond until a rush of water would continue them down the canal. The pond was much smaller than it is today. In the mid 1900s it was called the "Duck Pond" by the local people. It was used many years for ice skating parties. The canal was in operation until 1878. When tobacco was grown in Big Flats, most of the better land on the farm was put into tobacco and three tobacco sheds were built. About 1903, a three foot high dike was built around two sides of a flat field ( it would be north of Route 86) to keep the creek from flooding out the tobacco.
- ❖ In the 1858 Joseph Lowe's daughter, Cynthia, married a newcomer to Big Flats, J.R. Lowe. He was no relation to the Big Flats Lowe's. They took up residence at the home farm. In 1865 the Agricultural Statistics listed J.R. Lowe with 200 acres. 100 of which were improved.
- ❖ J.R. Lowe's daughter Mary married Oscar Kahler who was at one time a New York State Assemblymen.
- ❖ For a while a nephew of the Lowe's took over the management of the farm, and then Mary and Oscar's son took over the supervision of the farm.
- ❖ In 1882, The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad was built through the southern part of the farm. In 1953 the 4 lane highway (Route 17, now I-86) was built, again dividing the farm.
- ❖ In 1886, the barns on the farm burned. By this time, the land was producing well and the new barn was one of the largest in this section. There was a horse barn large enough to handle 6 to 8 horses, two tenant houses, and the large main house. There also was a large herd of dairy cows. There were always three hired men to help run the farm.
- ❖ A member of the Lowe family lived on the farm for 163 years.
- ❖ In 1968 the federal government decided it would not help Chemung County with the airport enlargement unless the barn, which was in line with the main runway, was removed. So, Chemung County bought the farm and burned all the buildings. The pond area is now a Memorial Park named after Trooper Andrew Sperr who was killed in the line of duty on Lowe Road.



## Empire Access

Empire Access has completed Phase 1 of the Big Flats Fiber optic network build, and now has the ability to offer state-of-the-art Fiber Optic service in the Town of Big Flats. This makes Big Flats the 1<sup>st</sup> Fiber to The Home Gigabit community in Chemung County! The availability of this Fiber Optic service is a major milestone for the area! Access to this type of high-speed Fiber will help to make Big Flats and the Southern Tier a desirable area to live and work in for years to come.

Empire is a local company, based in Prattsburgh, NY, with over 100 years of telecommunications experience. They offer industry leading Fiber Optic service for Internet, TV, Phone and Security to residential and business customers throughout 10 counties and 2 states. As a family owned and operated business, they remain focused on ensuring jobs stay local to help strengthen our economy and communities. Recently we installed Fiber Optic service at the Town Hall Office and the Town is extremely satisfied with the new Fiber service. The Town now has the latest technology for phone and Internet over a 100 percent Fiber Optic connection!

For more information on the Big Flats Fiber Project, go to [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov) or

Call Empire Access at 1-800-338-3300 You can also visit [www.empireaccess.com/where-we-are/big-flats](http://www.empireaccess.com/where-we-are/big-flats)

## *Department of Public Works*

The Department of Public Works experienced a busy summer construction season. We completed stone and oil resurfacing, slurry seal treatments, asphalt overlay, asphalt “mill and fill” projects, and complete roadway rehabilitations, such as on Eachus Hollow Road. Numerous cross-pipes and driveway pipes were installed, ditches were cleaned, and trees were trimmed. Our DPW crews also partnered with GST-BOCES interns to complete a pilot-project within the town, cleaning several creeks of brush, logs, and trees. The partnership provided valuable experience to the student interns, while keeping costs manageable for the Town.

We are now at the time of year when residents complete fall cleanup of their yards and landscape. As a reminder, the yard-waste dumpster is available at the Town complex, conveniently located between the DPW building and the Community Center. Use of the dumpster is limited to grass and leaves – for more information, please see the Town’s webpage at <http://www.bigflatsny.gov/public-works-dpw/pages/organic-dropoff>. While the Town does not provide a fall brush pickup service, residents are eligible to drop off brush (for a small fee) to Black Gold on CR10 – South Corning Road. The Town is currently working to create a new mulch pickup site, where residents can obtain ground mulch, made from Christmas trees and other woody material.

The DPW was pleased to have participated in construction of the new playground at Community Park Extension. The playground is conveniently sited close to the pavilion and the park restrooms, while providing easy access for children attending their sibling’s ballgames! Work on the playground was completed in August and September, and opened to the public on September 19. We chose to use rubber mulch for the playground’s surface, providing a safer and longer lasting alternative to standard wood mulch. For more information about our parks system, or directions on reserving a pavilion for special events, please visit our webpage at <http://www.bigflatsny.gov/public-works-dpw/pages/parks>. We also ask that you take a few moments to fill out the parks survey on our website: <http://www.bigflatsny.gov/webforms/bf-parks-survey>. Your participation is appreciated, and helps us create a modern and vibrant parks system!

As mentioned in our July newsletter article, the DPW installed new exterior lighting at the Town Complex this summer and fall. These lights are modern, energy efficient LED fixtures, providing a 4-year payback, and a savings of almost \$250,000 over 15 years. The success of this program has led us to plan the replacement of all interior Town Complex lights with LED lighting, to be phased in over a 3-year period.

For drivers, winter is one of the most dangerous times of the year. It is a time when overnight weather conditions can change dramatically, when we go out in the morning and find the windows on our vehicles iced over. Our next thoughts quickly turn to the roadways we travel to our daily destinations. It is a time of year when we should expect the unexpected, including black ice and freezing rain. For more information on preparing for winter driving, please see the joint Highway Superintendents’ press release at <http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageID=105&nid=1319&CatId=58>

The Town asks that residents and businesses do not sweep salt, sand, or cinders into storm drainage catchbasins or drywells. Eventually, the materials will build up, possibly plugging lines and drywells. It is costly to clean and replace drainage facilities. As an alternative, please place swept materials into your trash. The Town will complete spring time sweeping of our roads and road shoulders.

Please note that New York State Towns are not responsible for damages occurring during highway work operations to vehicles or property parked or located in the R-O-W. Municipalities are specifically protected by section 1103-b of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Also, under New York State Highway Law Section 319, Article 11, municipalities are not responsible for damage to mail boxes, even when struck by snow or plows. These laws are applicable to year-round highway maintenance operations.

The Town of Big Flats will pick up Christmas Trees for town residents beginning 1/4/2016. Residents should place their trees, bare without decorations, by the roadside.

Please:

Ensure trees are bare without ornaments, lights, hooks, garland, nails and etc.  
Place trees parallel to the curb in the curblawn area, not in the roadway.  
All trees must be out and ready for pick-up by 1/29/2016.



As always, please feel free to stop in the office. We are happy to help you with questions about the DPW, water system, or our parks and facilities. You can also visit our DPW webpage at <http://www.bigflatsny.gov/public-works-dpw>.





The Big Flats Teen Commission held the 9th Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 24th, 2015. This year's event included a Soup and Pumpkin tasting along with the Big Flats Fire Departments Open House. The winners chose by the judges were Amy LaCorazzas' "Chili Soup" and for Pumpkin, St Mary Our Mothers "Pumpkin Crumb Muffins". The People's choice winner was a clean sweep by St. Mary Our Mothers winning in both categories with their "Pumpkin Crumb Muffins" and "Spicy Tomato & Turkey Ditalini Soup".

Children came dressed in their costumes and paraded around the Community Center with 'Casper the Friendly Ghost' and the 'Cowardly Lion'. The kids also enjoyed many crafts such as, pumpkin coloring, sand art, face painting, tattoos, pumpkin reflectors, Halloween sticker scenes, bookmarks and coloring bags (provided by Library Advocates).

The Big Flats Fire Department gave handouts and brought over one of their Fire Trucks to display. The Chemung County Sheriff's Department also had handouts for the kids. The New York State Troopers brought their K-9 dog "Dobbs". The Horseheads Masonic Lodge kindly provided the kids with ID cards. Guests enjoyed the music of Marc Chevalier and Dean Goble.

We would like to thank the following groups for volunteering at this years event: senior citizens, soup and pumpkin participants, judges, kitchen helpers, and community members. This would not be a success without all of you. Thank you again Teens and Staff.

Many thanks to the following businesses for their donations: Demets, with their famous "Turtles", Walmart for the monetary gift card and Wegmans for the monetary donation that provided many baked goods for the cake and pie wheel.



Town Supervisor Ed Fairbrother spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony at Tops Friendly Markets at their Grand Re-Opening on Wed. Oct.28th. The Corporation made generous donations to local organizations which included the Big Flats Youth Department for \$500.



## The Big Flats Business Association

7th annual "Christmas in Big Flats"

Saturday December 12.

Businesses in Big Flats will celebrate the Christmas season with town-wide open houses and refreshments.

The following businesses will be participating:

Amish Workshop 9am-5pm,

Antique Revival 10am-5pm,

Bright Ideas by Martinec 10am-2pm,

Cottage Gift Shop 10am-5pm,

Ken's Service Center 7am-7pm,

Maple Valley Farm Market 11am-4pm,

Oldies But Goodies 9:30am-5:30pm,

Ted's Produce & Flower Market 10am-5pm,

The Witch's Stitches 10am-5pm.

Flyers will be available at each business.

Visit [www.BigFlatsBusinessAssociation.com](http://www.BigFlatsBusinessAssociation.com) and

follow the "Christmas in Big Flats" link or

call [\(607\) 733-9063](tel:6077339063) for more information.



# NOTICE TO TOWN OF BIG FLATS RESIDENTS

## DOG ENUMERATION (census)



**As per the State of New York and Big Flats local law, all dogs residing in the Town MUST be licensed.  
Therefore:**

Southern Tier Dog Control will be conducting a dog enumeration (census) beginning April, 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, As required by Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, any dog (4) months or age or older must be licensed within the TOWN they reside in.

Please license your dog(s) at the **Town Clerks Office, 476 Maple Street, Big Flats, NY 14814.**

*(Please bring):*

Rabies Certification from the Veterinarian

Spay or Neuter Certificate

Drivers License or other I.D

Spay/Neutered - \$6.00

Not Spayed/Neutered - \$20.00

Once the enumeration begins, all owners of dog(s) that are not licensed will be given (10) days to have said dog(s) licensed or the Dog Control Officer will issue tickets.

Also an **additional** enumeration fee of **\$5.00** for any unlicensed dog will be charged.

Starting January 1st, 2016 a \$5.00 late fee will be added for each month that your license is not current.

It is the Dog(s) owner's responsibility to let the Clerk's Office know if you no longer have the dog or if you plan on moving out of the Town

If you have any questions regarding licensing your dog, please contact the Town Clerk Office at 607-562-8443.

Thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation of the Dog Laws.

Southern Tier Dog Control Officer

Joel Pearson

607-846-3640



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## *Water Department*

As 2015 comes to a close the Water Department would like to thank our customers for their understanding and patience while working with us on the multitude of the projects we completed this year.

The re-metering project is 90 percent complete and needs to be completed by December 31, so if you have not received your new water meter please call us to schedule an appointment at 607-562-8443 ext. 228.

The interconnection with Elmira has been moving forward and the design phase has been completed. We should be in a position to be taking bids this winter in order to have this project completed in 2016.

The Water Department would like to remind everyone of the new water rates that will go into effect in 2016. Monthly billed customers will be billed using the new rates starting with the February bill. Our quarterly billed customers will see these rates starting on the April bill. Please visit the website for more information, [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov). Although it was a tough decision, it was important to implement these rates for the future stability of the Big Flats Water Department as we move forward with our asset management program.

Now that winter is upon us we want to remind everyone to check and winterize your home. Here are a couple things to look for. 1) Make sure your garden hose is unhooked from the spigot to prevent freezing. 2) Check any electrical heat tape to make sure that it is plugged in and in good operating condition (no cracks or broken plug ends). 3) Check to make sure that all cellar doors are closed and sealed up from the outside air. 4) Be sure that insulation is installed around any pipes that may come in contact with the outside air. A little prevention now may save you time and money this winter.

Have a great holiday season

## *The Library Advocates*

The Big Flats Library Advocates presented a check to the Big Flats Library for \$1,000 to purchase much needed equipment for the library. Our July Garden Tour fund raiser was such a successful event we've decided to sponsor the Second Annual Big Flats Garden Tour next July.

If you know of a garden that you think should be included in the tour email the committee at [bflibraryadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:bflibraryadvocates@gmail.com). Contact the home owner first to be sure he/she agrees or you can even nominate your own garden. Include the name and address of the gardener and we will schedule a visit.

We are always looking for new members. Dues are \$10 annually. You can be a supporting member or if you have the time you can volunteer to help out at the various events held during the year. Meetings are usually in the morning but occasionally we hold them in the evening. Applications for membership can be found at various locations around town or at the Library. Stop in and find out about all the exciting programs scheduled for the fall.

Lee Hanle Younge  
BFLA President



Yes, I would like to support "The New Big Flats Times"

**Business Sponsor**- \$50/issue for \_\_\_\_ issues Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Address /Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email a business card you would like in the issue to [tstein@bigflatsny.gov](mailto:tstein@bigflatsny.gov)

Use the same business card that's on file \_\_\_\_\_(check)

**Individual**- \$20/issue for \_\_\_\_ issues Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it to appear \_\_\_\_\_(please print)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "**Town of Big Flats**"- Memo line: **NBFT**

Money and form may be left in Town Clerk's office or mailed to:

NBFT 476 Maple Street, Big Flats, NY 14814

Email address so I can send renewal reminders \_\_\_\_\_










## December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <b>ANASTAZJA</b> Concert 6:00 	5
6	7	8	9 Town Board Meeting 4:30	10	11	12 Pancake Breakfast Presbyterian Church  <i>Christmas in Big Flats</i> 
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve  Town Hall Closed	25 Christmas Day  Town Hall Closed	26
27	28 Town Board Meeting 4:30	29	30	31 		

## January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Town Hall Closed	2
3	4	5 Organizational Meeting 4:30	6	7	8	9 Pancake Breakfast Presbyterian Church 
10	11	12	13 Town Board Meeting 4:30	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22 Rock and Bowl for Troop 87 Rossi Lanes , 9-11	23
24	25	26	27 Town Board Meeting 7:00	28	29	30
31						

## February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Town Board Meeting 4:30	11	12	13 Pancake Breakfast Presbyterian Church 
14 Valentine's Day 	15 President's Day Town Hall Closed	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Town Board Meeting 7:00	25	26	27
28	29					

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Big Flats, NY 14814

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Visit us on the web at [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov)



### DID YOU FIND 26 SNOWMEN?

Due to the increasing cost of the Newsletter we are conducting a survey and hope you will take time to mark one of the following: **PLEASE ONLY SEND IN ONE PER HOUSEHOLD**

- \_\_\_\_\_ - I would like to view the newsletter on the Town website at [www.bigflatsny.gov](http://www.bigflatsny.gov)  
\_\_\_\_\_ - I would like to have the newsletter emailed to me  
\_\_\_\_\_ - I would like to continue to have the newsletter mailed to me:  
\_\_\_\_\_ - I **DO NOT** want to receive the newsletter anymore

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



Please pick ONE choice and mail or drop off to Big Flats Town Hall

Attn: Newsletter

476 Maple St.

Big Flats, NY 14814